Boston April 2. 1838.

Dear Brother Emerson

I understand that father Holmes has left, or is about leaving you, and that you are on the lookout for a successor. Permit me to recommend to you, my brother in law Moore, recently of Natick. His present address is Wrentham. He is discreet, and at the same time decided and fearless. He is, in my judgment, much above the ordinary run of preachers. His sermons are sound and well written, and his manner of delivery, though not as earnest and impassioned as some men's, is yet good and impressive. I think he would make you an excellent minister. He is now at liberty and could come and preach for you almost any sabbath, if you should desire it. I hope you will at least give him a hearing. That can do no harm, and I should hope, on hearing him, that you would be pleased enough with him to retain him. He would prefer coming at first only for one sabbath, as an occasional supply, and not as a candidate. Should you then wish his services longer, you can make arrangements accordingly.

And now a word in respect to abolition. You are aware of the collision between the state and national societies have seen, I suppose, the statement of the case in the "Christian Journal Extra" - and know that your county board have taken supervision of the field within your county and invited in the agents of the American Society, thus virtually taking sides with that Society

Well, your county society is to meet soon in New Bedford, at which time and place ~~I suppose~~ I have no doubt an effort will be made to undo what the county board have done, and to pass resolutions sustaining the state, and condemnatory of the county & parent boards; & what with the quakers & coloured people in New Bedford it will not be strange if the attempt succeds.

What your views on the matter in dispute are, I know not, nor is it of any importance for me to know, so far as it concerns what I wish now to say to you. I will only say then, as I cannot go now into the matter in detail, that I regard the parent Committee in the right. They ought to be sustained. Nor do I believe that the State board would ever have sent out their protest but for certain "ulterior measures" which they wished to accomplish thereby — one of these is to crush the Massachusetts Abolitionist, by shutting out of the State the agents of the Parent Society, who are generally favourable to it & where they can do it without interfering with the duties of their agency, are in the habit of getting subscribers for it — another is to make the Society anti-Orthodox in its influence — and another, by having the entire control of the cause in the state, to take advantage of it for the promulgation of Non-Resistance — Nogovernment, &c. &c. I can give you facts when I see you that will bear me out in all these positions. The truth is Garrison & the board are themselves guilty of the very things they are charging on others. They are just in the attitude of the man who cries "stop thief" that he under cover of that cry may make off with the stolen goods. I hope to see you and converse with you at length on these subjects by & by. Meanwhile if you agree with me that the parent committee ought to be sustained, I hope you will see that the meeting at New Bedford is not a packed one, but that those who think with us, as well as others, are on the ground, prepared to hear the case, & take proper action thereon. Should it

come up.] Remember me affectionately to your family.

Yours truly

(Signed) A. A. Phelps.

P. S. Brother Moore is a good abolitionist — but wise & prudent at the same time that he is firm & decided on the subject. Of course he would not make a <u>hobby</u> of it.

[The foregoing is a true copy of an original letter purporting to have been written & signed by Rev. A. A. Phelps and addressed to "Dea — Emerson, (Teacher) New Bedford, Mass." and appeared to have been mailed at Boston, April 2 with the postage paid —

Attest — Fisher A. Ringsbury]

Ms. A.21.8.32